

Predation impacts and management strategies for wildlife protection

Presented by Mark Jensen

State Director

USDA-APHIS-WS

Nevada Wildlife Services Program

- **Cooperative Program:**
 - **State**
 - **NV Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Industry**
 - **Federal**
 - **USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services**



- **35 employees in two Districts**
 - East
 - West

5 Aircraft



WS MOUs with NDOW, BLM and Forest Service

- Current MOUs recognize BLM and FS as the management authority for wildlife habitat on lands they administer.
- Recognize Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) as the management authority for wildlife species within the state.
- Recognize USDA-Wildlife Services authority to conduct wildlife damage management activities on federal lands.
- WS conducts wildlife protection projects only at the request of the State. State pays the cost of the project.

Why conduct predator management?

- Protect critical wildlife management areas
- Support reintroductions of native wildlife
- Protect seriously depressed wildlife populations

When to conduct predator management and when is predator management successful?

- 1) Deer populations are below K
 - 2) Predation had been identified as a limiting factor
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- 1) Predation management reduced predator populations enough to be effective
 - 2) Predation management efforts were timed just prior to reproduction of predator or prey species
 - 3) Efforts were targeted at a focused scale

1) Deer populations are below K

- **NDOW** sets goals and objectives
- **How many** do we have?
- **How many** do we want?



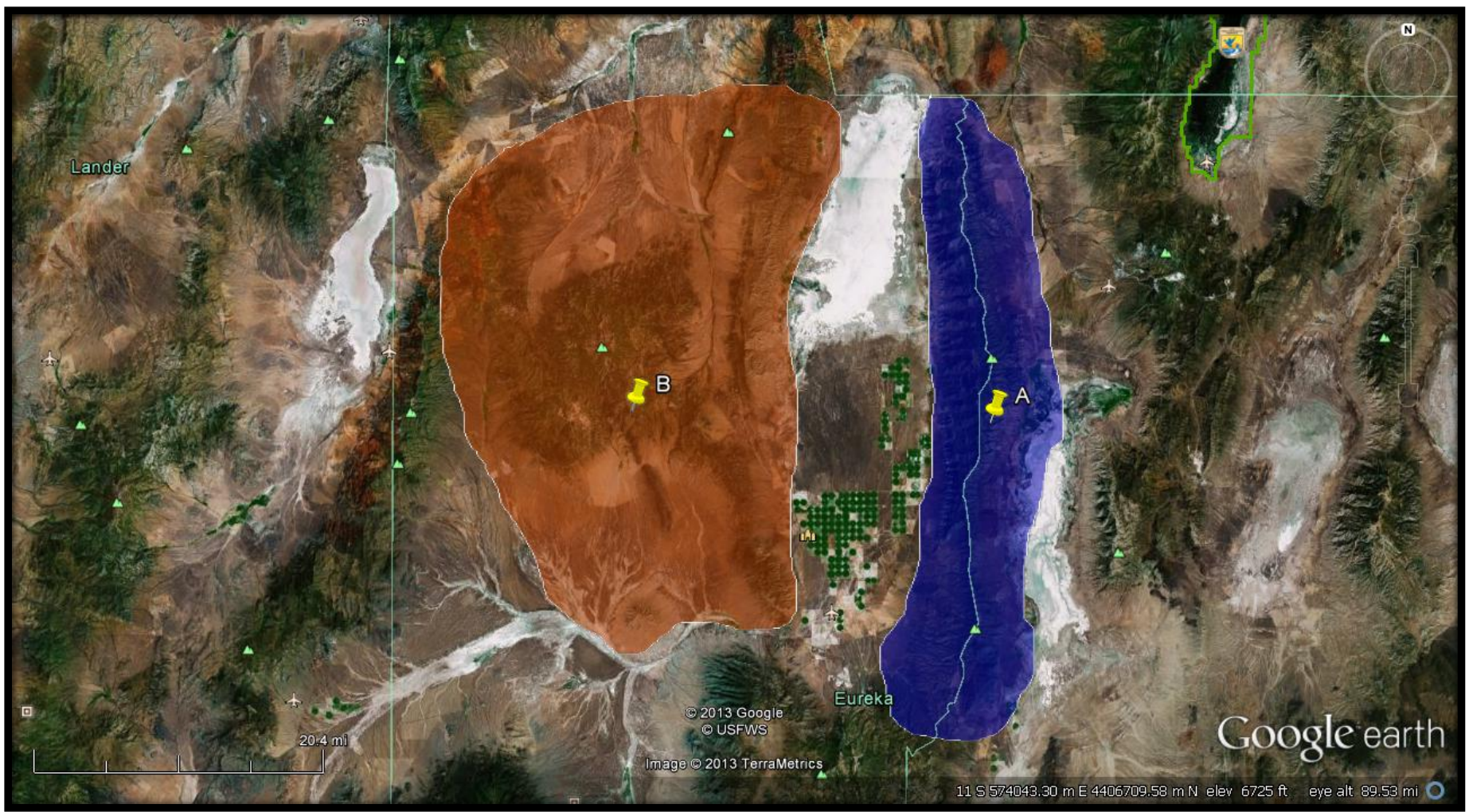
1) Project 18 in Unit 014

- **850 deer in 2005**
- **1600 deer in 2014
(88.2% increase)**

**We did not establish
clear goals and
objectives before the
start of the project**



Project 22-14



Project 22-14

- Is the deer herd the same size?
- Are the other prey species the same?
- Is the herd composition the same?
- Is the habitat the same?
- Is the rainfall or moisture the same?
- Is the predator population and composition the same?
- Has the Heritage Project affected the predator composition?



WS recommends specific mule deer population goals and objectives for the treatment area of Project 22-14

2) Predation had been identified as a limiting factor



Don't forget the secondary effects of predation

- **82.5% of sage grouse nests were depredated**
- **Reducing raven densities around SG leks can increase nest success**



3) Predation management reduced localized predator populations enough to be effective





WS Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



4) Predation management efforts were timed just prior to reproduction of predator or prey species



5) Efforts
were
targeted at
a focused
scale





In summary

- Is the population below **K**?
- Do we have specific goals and objectives?
- When do we start and when do we stop?
- Is predation a limiting factor?
- Are localized predator populations reduced enough to be effective?
- Is the timing right?
- Is the scale right? Not too big or too small?



Questions?



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